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REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

In the Final Official Action, the Examiner again rejects claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,681,260 to Ueda et al. (hereinafter "Ueda") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,958,577 to Biglieri et al. (hereinafter "Biglieri").

In response, claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claims 2, 6 and 7 and consequently, claims 2, 6 and 7 have been canceled. Claim 1 has been further amended to clarify that the magnetic-field generating member includes a plurality of magnetic coils arranged in the directions of three axes, which perpendicularly intersect one another, respectively in the capsule endoscope. The further amendment to claim 1 is fully supported in the original disclosure, particularly at Figure 9 and the accompanying text of the specification. Thus, no new matter has been entered into the disclosure by way of the present amendment to claim 1. Claim 8 has also been amended into independent form to include the features of claims 1 and 9 and consequently claim 9 has been canceled. Lastly, claims 3-5 and 10-17 have been canceled.

With regard to independent claim 1, as amended, when observing using the capsule endoscope, a current is selectively supplied to the predetermined coil among the plurality of magnetic coils. Thus, the capsule endoscope itself generates a magnetic field. Hence, when the capsule endoscope is positioned within the magnetic field generating means, the function of the magnetic field is provided to the capsule endoscope, thereby making it possible to easily perform the posture control as well as the movement control of the capsule endoscope by a remote control.

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In contrast, Ueda discloses, in the fifteenth embodiment illustrated in Figures 36-38, "three coreless coils." Such coils are not provided in the capsule endoscope as recited in claim 1, but in the insertion portion of a conventional endoscope. Furthermore, such coils are not arranged in the directions of three axes, which perpendicularly intersect one another, in the capsule endoscope but are in the insertion portion of a conventional endoscope and lie in one plane. Still further, Ueda does not perform posture control and movement control by supplying a current to at least one of the magnetic coils in a time series manner and selectively, as is also now recited in claim 1.

With regard to independent claim 8, as amended, the same is directed to controlling the magnetic field externally applied to the capsule endoscope so as to improve the accuracy in detecting the position of the capsule endoscope as well as to conserve power. Specifically, the magnetic field externally applied is intermittently applied as pulse signals to the capsule endoscope. When the magnetic force is applied, the capsule endoscope is moved or the power is generated. On the other hand, when the magnetic force is not applied, the position can be detected by the function of the magnetic coils of the capsule endoscope itself. Thus, the accuracy in detecting the position of the capsule endoscope is improved and the power is efficiently consumed, to contribute to saving power.

In contrast, Ueda discloses an electromagnet and a magnetic field that merely ceases to exist by cutting off a current thereto.

Biglieri does not cure the above defects in the disclosure of Ueda.


With regard to claims 2-7 and 9-17, the same have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection thereof moot.

With regard to claims 1 and 8, the same, as amended, are not rendered obvious by the cited references because neither the Ueda patent nor the Biglieri patent, whether taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest a capsule endoscope system having the features described above and as recited in independent claims 1 and 8. Accordingly, claims 1 and 8, as amended, patentably distinguish over the prior art and are allowable. Consequently, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection of claims 1-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Lastly, claim 1 has been further amended to correct a spelling mistake therein and to improve its form and readability.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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